

**Southern Division American Fisheries Society**  
**Spring Executive Committee Meeting**  
**Thursday, 8 February 2018**  
**Intercontinental Hotel – Caribbean Ballroom**  
**San Juan, Puerto Rico**

Secretary-Treasurer Kim Bonvechio announced a quorum was present. President Wes Porak called the EXCOM meeting to order at 1530 hrs. President Porak introduced the SDAFS officers and recognized past SDAFS Presidents in attendance: Pat Mazik, Steve McMullin, and Dennis Riecke.

Pat Mazik, Gus Engman, Miguel Garcia, and Tom Kwak provided an update on the Puerto Rico meeting, which included a plenary session with Dr. Ariel Lugo, 7 concurrent sessions, 6 workshops, 132 talks, 27 posters, and several networking events. Gus Engman provided an overview of the Puerto Rico AFS Chapter, which is one of the Society's newest and smallest chapters. He also summarized the beach restoration event at nearby Ocean Park, which was a collaborative effort between SDAFS meeting attendees and their families, the San Juan Bay Estuary Program, and 7 Quillas. This could not have been possible without the fundraising efforts and logistical support of the Society's staff and officers. Gus also expressed his gratitude for efforts to raise over \$9,000 to provide travel assistance for Puerto Rico AFS members to attend the SDAFS meeting.

AFS Executive Director Doug Austin added some remarks about the meeting and support they received by AFS members around the country. He mentioned AFS will highlight the meeting through different communication channels. Pat Mazik personally thanked him and AFS for bringing the AFS Governing Board Meeting to San Juan.

To start official meeting business, President Porak asked for a list of proxies. These included Eric Brinkman for Arkansas, Kim Bonvechio for Florida, Dennis Riecke for Mississippi, Dave Coughlan for North Carolina, and Mike Isel for Virginia. With a quorum present, President Porak started official meeting business. Attendee introductions were made, including SDAFS officers (President, Wes Porak; Past President, Dave Coughlan; President-Elect, Craig Bonds; Vice President, Wes Neal; Secretary-Treasurer, Kim Bonvechio; Student Representative to the EXCOM, Amy Cottrell).

President Porak presented the Spring EXCOM Meeting agenda. Mike Homer made a motion to approve the agenda and Brett Timmons seconded the motion. No discussion ensued. Motion passed by unanimous consent.

**SDAFS President Report**

President Porak's report stands as written in the SDAFS Briefing Book. From that report, he highlighted the memo of understanding (MOU) that was formed between the SDAFS, The Society, and the Florida Chapter for the 2017 Annual AFS Meeting in Tampa, which resulted in the SDAFS receiving over \$18,000 in return. He also mentioned the SDAFS

fundraising efforts to provide travel assistance to Puerto Rico Chapter members to attend the current meeting.

### **SDAFS Officer Reports**

President-Elect Bonds noted his report stands as written. He highlighted that he and President Porak co-wrote/signed a letter that was sent to all of the state fish chiefs within the Southern Division requesting financial support of AFS Special Publication 30, which was successful at raising additional funds for the book. He also noted that he and Wes Neal manned a SDAFS informational booth at the annual SEAFWA (Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies) meeting and he provided a SDAFS update at the annual Texas Chapter meeting.

Vice President Neal's report stands as written. He noted that he completed his review of the Alligator Gar Technical Committee, which will be presented at the SDAFS Business Meeting. He also encouraged attendees to visit the silent auction.

Immediate Past President Coughlan noted that he attended the North Carolina and South Carolina AFS Chapter meetings. Also, as Chair of the SDAFS Nominating Committee, he was responsible for this past year's elections of officers. Of the four students running for the SDAFS Student Representative to the EXCOM, winners were Kyler Hecke and Lauren Halbert. Of the two candidates for Vice President, Tom Kwak received the most votes.

Student Representative to the EXCOM, Amy Cottrell, noted that she created a document with guidelines for forming and operating an AFS student subunit, which is now available on the SDAFS website. She was also tasked with increasing communication between the EXCOM and student subunits, and to do that, she created a gmail account for each subunit. These gmail accounts are considered to be the main means of communication between student subunits and the SDAFS EXCOM. This allows consistent communication channels from year-to-year as students cycle through their respective subunits. President Porak highlighted Amy's role as Chair of the Communications Committee which also includes Corbin Hilling (SDAFS Newsletter Editor), Hae Kim (SDAFS Webmaster), Brandon Peoples (Listserv Administrator), and Andrew Taylor (Representative to the AFS Communications Committee).

Secretary-Treasurer Kim Bonvechio's reports were handled individually. Minutes from the 2017 EXCOM Meeting were published in the Summer 2017 SDAFS Newsletter and on the SDAFS website. Having received no comments or revisions, Past President Coughlan made a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes and President-Elect Bonds seconded. No discussion ensued and no abstentions were reported. Motion passed by unanimous vote. No further questions or comments were received and the minutes stand approved.

Secretary-Treasurer Bonvechio highlighted main points from the 2017 SDAFS financial statement. Income levels were in line with what was expected, except for the income from the Tampa AFS meeting which was not received in the 2017 calendar year. Same

was true for expenses, except web service costs were approximately \$2,000 less than anticipated. The SDAFS balance as of December 31, 2017 was \$12,043.93.

An audit of the 2017 financial information was completed on January 29, 2018 by the SDAFS Audit Committee composed of Eric Nagid (Chair), Travis Tuten, and Chris Anderson. Year-end checkbook and financial statement balances were in agreement; however, it was noted that there were \$1,830 in outstanding expenses related to checks that had not been cashed by the end of the 2017 calendar year. The audit report was read aloud in its entirety by President Porak. A motion to approve the committee's report was made by President-Elect Bonds and seconded by Mike Homer. No discussion ensued and no abstentions were reported. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

The Proposed 2018 SDAFS Budget was discussed. Secretary-Treasurer Bonvechio highlighted some of the major changes to the upcoming budget. Additional income will include revenue from the 2017 Tampa AFS meeting in the amount of \$22,554. For expenses, \$2,000 was carried over from 2017 to address various website issues for the technical committees. Increased expenses for student (\$4,000 to \$6,000) and podcast (\$600 to \$1,200) travel were also budgeted for the SDAFS Puerto Rico meeting. Discussion ensued regarding the intention of SDAFS to invest \$10,000 in the hopes of achieving more longterm financial security. Several suggested that any decision on course of action be delayed until meeting finances are finalized. A motion to approve the 2018 budget was made by Vice President Neal and seconded by President-Elect Bonds. No further discussion ensued and no abstentions were reported. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

### **Chapter Reports**

**Host Comments** – Puerto Rico Chapter President Gus Engman introduced the current officers and noted their new chapter website, Facebook group, and Facebook page. He also pointed out the unconventional outdoor venue choice for chapter meetings.

**Alabama** – Not present. Report stands as written in the 2018 SDAFS Briefing Book.

**Arkansas** – Report stands as written in the 2018 SDAFS Briefing Book. Highlighted was their annual chapter meeting which took place January 23-25, 2018 in Pine Bluff, AR and had a record 126 attendees. Chapter membership also voted to provide seed money for the upcoming SDAFS meeting in Little Rock, AR in 2020.

**Florida** – Report stands as written in the 2018 SDAFS Briefing Book.

**Georgia** – Report stands as written in the 2018 SDAFS Briefing Book. Several items from that report were highlighted. An overview of the 2017 and 2018 Chapter meetings was provided, with an emphasis on career panels to offer guidance to students seeking a job in fisheries science, student symposia, fish aging and Fisheries Analysis and Modeling Simulator (FAMS) workshops, and first Chapter Service Award.

**Kentucky (inactive)** – Not present. No report submitted.

**Louisiana** – Not present. Report stands as written in the 2018 SDAFS Briefing Book.

**Mississippi** - Report stands as written in the 2018 SDAFS Briefing Book. Dennis Riecke, proxy for the Mississippi Chapter, highlighted their recent successful meeting.

**North Carolina** - Report stands as written in the 2018 SDAFS Briefing Book. Past President Coughlan, proxy for the North Carolina Chapter, noted their recent successful

meeting in Morganton, NC which included a student raffle that raised approximately \$1400.

**Oklahoma** – Report stands as written in the 2018 SDAFS Briefing Book. An overview of their Natural Resource Conference, fish kill workshop, and other Chapter activities was provided. Some discussion ensued about the pros and cons of holding a joint meeting with other natural resource groups. It was suggested that holding joint meetings on a rotational basis would be most ideal.

**Potomac** – Not present. Report stands as written in the 2018 SDAFS Briefing Book.

**South Carolina** – Not present. Report stands as written in the 2018 SDAFS Briefing Book.

**Tennessee** – Not present. Report stands as written in the 2018 SDAFS Briefing Book.

**Texas** – Report stands as written in the 2018 SDAFS Briefing Book. Also highlighted was the recent Chapter meeting in College Station, TX, with over 200 registered attendees (2<sup>nd</sup> highest) and 11 scholarships totaling \$15,500. The Chapter is looking forward to hosting the SDAFS meeting in 2019.

**Tidewater** – Report stands as written in the 2018 SDAFS Briefing Book. Highlighted were the recent meeting in Beaufort/Morehead City with approximately 130 attendees. and the Chapter's financial support of the Puerto Rico Chapter members to attend the SDAFS meeting.

**Virginia** – Report stands as written in the 2018 SDAFS Briefing Book. Highlighted were the recent joint meeting with the Virginia Tech Chapter in Fredericksburg, Virginia, the first International Snakehead Symposium to be held in Alexandria, VA in July 2018, and hosting the 2021 SDAFS meeting.

**Virginia Tech** – Report stands as written in the 2018 SDAFS Briefing Book. Also highlighted were the Chapter's R workshop and different outreach events.

**West Virginia** – Report stands as written in the 2018 SDAFS Briefing Book.

### **Action Items**

**Resolutions Committee** – Dennis Riecke provided an update on two resolutions. First was the host resolution to recognize the planning committee and chapter hosting the Puerto Rico SDAFS meeting. He made a motion to approve the resolution to be presented to the membership at the SDAFS business meeting. Craig Bonds seconded the motion. No further discussion ensued and no abstentions were reported. Motion passed by unanimous vote. The second resolution involved revising the shipment clause of the Lacey Act. The resolution would support giving the USFWS the authority to regulate the shipment of injurious wildlife in the continental US. Comments in opposition of this resolution were received by the National Aquaculture Association, Florida Chapter AFS EXCOM, private fish farmer, and university professor. After reviewing these comments, and responses by the USFWS, the SDAFS EXCOM decided not to bring the resolution to the membership for consideration. The SDAFS EXCOM believes the issue is critically important, but also very complex for which a resolution may not be the best path forward. It was suggested that a panel discussion or symposium at a future SDAFS meeting may be helpful in addressing this issue. Discussion ensued about the challenges dealing with national issues at a regional level.

**Podcasting** – Jessica Baumann has been the podcast coordinator for the SDAFS meetings. She has proposed that instead of a single coordinator, a set of guidelines be written and provided to the planning committee for each meeting. Some discussion ensued regarding podcasting at the Texas SDAFS meeting, Camtasia software, and post processing. Future discussion among the EXCOM will decide which avenue would be best moving forward.

**New Business**

President Porak listed the schedule for upcoming SDAFS meetings: Galveston, Texas (January 24-27, 2019); Little Rock, Arkansas (2020); Virginia (2021); and South Carolina (2022).

Dan Daugherty with the Texas Chapter provided an overview of the 2019 SDAFS meeting to be held in Galveston, TX, including general location, facilities, registration fees, and other details.

Meeting was adjourned by President Porak at 1718 hrs.